

May 2008

Fallon County FSA Office
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County Committee Members

Robert Wenz, Chair
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Maralee Burdick, Regular Member

FSA Office Personnel

Maria L. Braun, CED - Ext. 102
Kay Varner, PT - Ext. 104
Sonja Wiseman, PT - Ext. 100
Sharon Gookin, Temp Off-Ext. 105
Ray Allerdings, Field - Ext. 108
Robin Markuson – Farm Loan
Officer (406) 775-6359 Ext. 110

Dates to Remember:

May 1 – Deadline - Fallon County
NAP Pull-Off Date on forage acres

May 14 – CRP Spring Grazing
Period Ends – All livestock must be
removed

May 22 – Deadline to Count new
seeded forage stand – Contact your
Insurance Agent with questions.

May 26 – Memorial Day – Office
closed

May 31 – Final loan/LDP
availability date for Corn, Dry peas,
Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard
seed, Safflower seed, Small
chickpeas, Soybeans, and
Sunflower seed harvested in 2006

June 1 – Deadline to Sign up for
NRCS EQIP Program

June 15 – Nominations Open for
COC election

Notice of Loss – 15 calendar days
following disaster

July 15 – Acreage report deadline

August 1 – Deadline for
restitutions

FSA NEWS

EQIP Deadline June 2

Landowners please contact the local county Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office to discuss ideas, alternatives and recommendations for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Together a conservation plan is developed that incorporates the landowner's objectives with ideas to help make their resources more sustainable. If conservation practices are identified as needed, a landowner can decide to apply for any one of a handful of conservation programs offered by USDA. EQIP offers cost share assistance for installing new conservation practices or incentive payments for trying new management techniques with special consideration for Limited Resource producers and Beginning farmers.

If the landowner decides to apply for EQIP, the landowner completes the form CCC-1200 obtained at their local USDA Service Center or from the National NRCS EQIP Web Page. The NRCS staff person will "rank" or score the application based on a ranking evaluation specific for their county or resource concern (see How EQIP Works). This score will be compared with other applications in the specific EQIP funding pool. If accepted, the landowner enters into a multi-year contract (from 1 to 10 years) with USDA that schedules the implementation of the practices in a time frame that works for the individual. NRCS accepts conservation program applications year-round, however, if you have conservation practices you have been considering, please contact the office immediately, as the deadline for EQIP is June 2, 2008. If you have questions about what practices are cost-shared or how the contracts are managed, please contact Ann or Kalyn at the Baker NRCS Field Office at (406) 778-2238 x. 3 or online at <http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/>. A new farm bill may be implemented in 2008 which could change the specific program information. Therefore, all information is based on past policy (2007 and before) and may be subject to change.

**REMEMBER DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR 2009 EQIP IS
JUNE 2 – CONTACT NRCS**

**FALLON COUNTY PRODUCERS –
PLEASE BRING YOUR MAPS INTO
THE OFFICE AS SOON AS YOU
HAVE THEM COMPLETED. A
COMPLETED FSA 578
(CERTIFICATION) WILL ASSIST
YOU WITH YOUR INSURANCE
ACREAGE REPORTING. THANK
YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN
THE PROCESS!!!**



**Signup Still Underway for Disaster
Assistance Programs LCP/LIP/DCP**

Signup continues for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 or producers located in counties contiguous to those counties are eligible. CDP does not require a disaster declaration. Fallon County has about one third of the livestock producers that **have not** been into the office to report their grazing losses. Letters were sent to each livestock producer in October and program reminders have been published in the previous newsletters. There also may be a few farmers that have not contacted the office in regards to any crop disaster benefits for 2005, 2006 or 2007.

Please contact the office for further explanation of the programs or to make an appointment to discuss eligibility.

**If you are reseeded winter wheat – please
contact the FSA office and your multi-peril
crop insurance agent!!! Thank you!!!**

Loan & LDP Final Availability Dates

Loans and LDP's are available to eligible producers who have:

- ❖ Reported acreage of the crop for which a loan or LDP is requested.
- ❖ Complied with all other program provisions

Request for loans and LDP's shall be made on or before the final availability date. Following are the final availability dates for crops harvested in 2007 for eligible grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, wool & mohair and honey:

Commodity	Availability Date
Corn, Grain sorghum, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Soybeans, Sunflower seed, Dry peas, Lentils and Small chickpeas	May 31, 2008
Wool/mohair for wool/mohair clipped in calendar year 2008	January 31, 2009

Farm Reconstitution

A completed farm reconstitution to divide or combine farms will result in the termination of the Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) contract. The farm producers may enroll the base acres for a crop year by signing a new DCP (CCC-509) for the resulting farm (s). This must be done by August 1 or 30 days after written notification that the farm reconstitution has been completed. If a CCC-509 is signed between August 1 and September 28, a \$100 user fee will be assessed. The fee is waived if the reconstitution is requested by August 1 and all signatures are obtained within 30 days following the written notification. The failure to timely enroll the base acres may result in loss of payments.

PRODUCERS THAT ARE DOING NEW BREAKING

Please ensure that you have a current 1026 on file and that land that you are breaking has had a determination made on it by NRCS. There is no violation until a crop is actually planted, however please check with the FSA and/or NRCS prior to new breaking to ensure that you would not be in violation and program benefits may be at risk.

Thank you!

Fallon County Producers – Water Assistance is Available Starting May 5

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has implemented the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for Fallon County producers due to drought.

The signup period will start on **May 5 and run for 20 working days**. Producers within Fallon County must contact the Fallon County FSA office in person or by phone during the signup period, to request ECP funding, before starting any practice. If a practice is started prior to requesting ECP funding, the producer may not be eligible to receive financial benefits.

Producers wishing to signup for ECP should:

- provide a map of the damaged area;
- mark on the map the location of border and cross fences, existing water sources, failed water sources and the location of the new project; and
- provide an estimate of the cost of the new project.

ECP provides financial assistance to supply emergency water in pastures where the previously adequate water source has failed. A failed water source must be located in the pasture where the new practice is being installed. To be eligible for ECP, a practice must primarily serve grazing land and have adequate vegetation for livestock grazing. Eligible practices are pipelines, tanks, troughs, constructing or deepening wells, and spring developments.

Assistance is also available for the labor for delivering water; truck rental for delivering water, temporary holding tanks and troughs; and contracted labor for water delivery. Typically cost share assistance for eligible items may not exceed 75 percent. All requests for ECP cost share are subject to the availability of funding. For further information regarding ECP, contact the Fallon County FSA office.

Measurement Service Charges

On farm measurement is charged at:

- Basic farm fee of \$30.00;
- Plus an hourly rate of \$16.00 for the first hour and \$8.00 for each additional ½ hour after the first hour. The minimum is 1 hour.

The hourly rate includes the time to travel from the FSA county office to the farm, complete the measurement service and return to the county office.

An "Initial Fee" is required at the time the measurement service is requested and the fee must be collected before the measurement service is performed. The initial fee will be the basic rate plus the hourly minimum. Once the service has been completed the actual fee will be calculated. The initial fee will be subtracted from the calculated fee and a letter will be sent informing you of the additional amount owed. If the amount is \$9.99 or less then an additional fee is not required.

In-office measurements are charged at:

- a basic farm rate of \$16.00 plus a 30-minute minimum rate of \$8.00.

Bin site measurements will be calculated according to the farm number and the physical location of the bins:

- for one farm with multiple bin sites, only one FSA-409 (a written request to have acreage measured by FSA) is required;
- for multiple farms and all the grain is stored in bins at one site, only one FSA-409 is required where the bin site is physically located;
- for multiple farms with a different bin site for each farm, a separate FSA-409 is required for each farm and bin site.

**THE COUNTY OFFICE
NEWSLETTER IS AN OFFICIAL
AGENCY RECORD AND MAY BE
USED TO ESTABLISH LEGAL
NOTICE OF PROGRAM
REQUIREMENTS!!!**

Responsibilities for CRP Contract Holders

CRP contract holders have certain responsibilities for carrying out the terms and conditions of the CRP contract. Those include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Control all weeds, insects, pests and other undesirable species to the extent necessary to ensure that the establishment and maintenance of the approved cover is adequately protected and there is no adverse impact on surrounding land.
- ✓ Establish and maintain the required vegetative or water cover and other required practices.
- ✓ No activity may be conducted on CRP acres without authorization.
- ✓ Prior approval must be received from FSA before any harvesting, grazing or other commercial use of the forage may begin.
- ✓ If land with a CRP contract is sold, the new owners should notify the local county FSA office if they want to continue the contract.

If CRP land is sold and the new owner does not wish to continue the CRP contract, the previous CRP participant will be required to repay all payments received on the contract plus interest and liquidated damages. Liquidated damages are equal to 25 percent of the annual rental payment on those acres not contracted by the new owner.

2007 Acreage Reports

All acreage reports need to be accurate and filed by the final reporting date of **July 15, 2008**. Certification is mandatory if any of the following apply:

- ◆ You receive DCP payments
- ◆ You have acres enrolled in CRP
- ◆ Loans or LDP's will be requested; including Wool, Mohair and Honey
(All cropland on the farm must be certified to be eligible for DCP and loan program benefits).
- ◆ Acreage is covered by NAP

Failure to report accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits.

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